

M. J. Ref.

Report of the Board of Health

NEWARK, N. J.

1882.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH,
FOR THE
YEAR 1882

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH.

*To the Hon. Henry Lang, Mayor, and the Members
of the City Council, of Newark, N. J. :*

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to present, on behalf of the Board of Health, this, its Annual Report, for the year ending December 31st, 1882.

In doing so I may be permitted to offer my congratulations to the citizens upon the general good health which has prevailed during the past twelve months. After many years of familiarity with matters that pertain to the health of our city, I may assert with truthfulness that the general sanitary conditions of Newark are steadily improving ; it may be that the growth is slow and gradual, but we are making constant progress toward better care and attention to what concerns the health of the people, and are to-day receiving their co-operation, which promises well for the future and its permanency.

The Board have administered the sanitary laws and regulations with moderation, prudence and efficiency,

which is constantly gaining for it a true recognition, and a wider and better appreciation by our citizens of the valuable service the Board of Health is rendering the public. The marked testimonial of the confidence of the people ; their interest in our public meetings is a source of much gratification to the Board as it must be to your honorable body.

During the year the greater part of the work has been of the usual kind done by sanitary boards, such as the abatement of nuisances, inspection of privy vaults, cesspools, defective drainage, cellars, tenement houses, etc., the examination of slaughter-houses, meat, vegetables, milk and other foods, together with the enforcement of the ordinances tending to arrest the spread of contagious and dangerous diseases.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The good results of this work can scarcely be estimated. The effect has been marked ; personal visitation on the part of the sanitary police has great moral force, and constitutes the first step in sanitary work. Our city is divided into districts, which our sub-inspectors or health police patrol daily.

Early in the season, before the summer heat, the Board instructed the inspectors to make careful inspection of those localities considered most unfavorable to health, and to report at the office minutely the results of their observations. The effect of these visits was decidedly beneficial in securing more attention to wholesome surroundings. These direct instructions as to the removal of objectionable conditions and

nuisances has called forth greater cleanliness and more watchfulness on the part of our people, and, as a consequence, less sickness and a lower death rate. It is doubtful if any service in our city is of such real, practical value to the public ; it is done without noise or show, and at a cost of less than \$3,500 per annum.

This health patrol has made 6,000 visits, abated 4,000 nuisances, ordered 3,000 privy vaults and cess-pools cleaned—a great work accomplished, and at a smaller proportional cost than any other city.

Owing to the continued illness of our Health Inspector, William Mead—since deceased—the daily patrol was lessened by the assignment of one of the sub-inspectors, Peter A. Siscoe, to the office of acting inspector. Mr. Siscoe has filled the position faithfully and efficiently, beside giving much attention to outside work. We believe the work of the Meat Inspectors well and honestly done by Messrs. Newman and Oviatt. This is a most important part of our work, and deserves greater attention than can be given to it by two inspectors. The duty required is to examine the cattle as they arrive by rail and at the slaughter-houses, the slaughtered meats, as well as other foods, vegetables, fruits, etc.

Your Committee, in order to render this part of its department more efficient, would recommend its entire reorganization. There have been slaughtered in this city no less than 11,662 beeves, 19,021 calves, 21,053 sheep and lambs, and 53,835 hogs ; and as this does not represent more than one-half of the consumption, the necessity of a most careful inspection must be obvious.

MILK INSPECTION.

To our supply of milk, your Committee has given most careful attention, feeling that the death-rate from defective nutrition among children was much greater than it would be if they were properly supplied and fed ; and knowing that the cow, directly or indirectly, is the foster-mother of all children, as well as a food source of many feeble or convalescing invalid adults, and that if made use of, falsified, tainted, or in any way changed, that natural laws are violated, and that suffering from the imprudence must ensue.

Intelligent people, as well as physicians, have for years desired that in some way the city might be supplied with pure milk, and that the dealer might be under some control, and to determine whether the people belonged to the milkmen, or the milkmen should be made to conform to the interests of the commonwealth. A State law was passed some time since, amended and approved March 22, 1881.

This law was introduced and its passage secured by a milk-producing association, who were brought into unfair competition with dishonest producers. The law is both commercial and sanitary, and has for its object the protection of the public health, in checking the sale of fraudulent and impure milk, as well as benefitting the honest producer. It provided for the appointment of a State Inspector, who could only occasionally look after this city. These spasmodic efforts, although well directed, could serve but little to curtail the actions of fraudulent dealers ; it therefore remained for this Board to put into effect some

plan for the better and purer supply of this commodity to our city. With these conditions before us, it was determined to try the experiment.

In our preparation for this inspection, we received the hearty assistance and co-operation of the State Inspector, W. K. Newton, M. D., and assigned Henry Neagles in July last to act as Milk Inspector. He received much assistance and instruction from Dr. Newton, and he has become so much interested in his department that we think him second to none as to his practical knowledge of what milk should be. He has examined 250 wagons and 200 stores, depots and wholesale dealers.

The business of milk dealing is very large, probably much greater than most of our citizens are aware. A word or two in this direction will serve to show how great an interest is involved, and consequently how much the opposition to our daily investigation. Yet your Board believed that they would meet with the support of the entire population when they determined to enforce the law against the adulteration or falsifying of this commodity, no matter how much the opposition might be. There are about three hundred wagons making regular rounds, serving from door to door; about two hundred and fifty milk depots, groceries and other stores in addition, are selling in all about 30,000 quarts daily, or one quart to every five persons, or about 11,000,000 quarts are sold annually, amounting to at least \$700,000 spent by our people for this article of food alone.

In brief, the plan of inspection is this: The Inspector is to visit all those who sell milk, examining the

milk on sale with the lactometer and by other means, and, on finding it below the standard made by the State, a small sample is taken, which is put into a tin can, the same to be sealed in the presence of the vender and marked with the Inspector's private seal ; it is then sent to one of the State Analysts for his chemical examination, he (the chemist) knowing it only by its number. His examination is then sworn to, the result sent to the office, and on this and the examination made by the City's Inspector, the prosecution is based. Your honorable body will observe the care taken to prevent collusion or any unfair advantage. We permit no milk to be destroyed ; payment for the sample taken is always offered, and in no way has any hardship been imposed until the seller has plead guilty or been so adjudged.

From our investigation for the six months, your Board fully concur in the generally-expressed sentiment, "That the milk dealers must be presumed and held to know the article they are selling, just as well as the baker knows his bread, and the butcher knows his meat, so ought the milk dealers to know the article they are selling," and, according to our observation, for the most part they do. At the beginning of our inspection, it was almost impossible for the inspector to find milk on sale that could be considered up to the standard. To-day it is just as difficult to find milk that does not come within the requirement of the law fixed by the State, which is decidedly in favor of the producer ; and any effort made by them to lower the same should be met by your prompt opposition. The verdict of the people will always be with us, in our

efforts to improve the character of the food they consume. It is a matter they have a right to demand at our hands, and your committee should be sustained by your honorable body in their efforts to enforce fair dealing in the sale of this, as well as of every article of diet, to require that it shall emanate from a healthy source, should be untainted, and free from adulteration. In proportion to the care with which we, as a Board, guard our community by exercising a rigorous surveillance over its purveyors, so are the qualities of food and its quantities for a given price improved. The principal methods of sophistication are by the abstraction of cream, the addition of water, salt, soda, etc.; and as no skimmed milk can be legally sold in New York city, Newark affords a good market for the milk from which the cream has been removed, our law giving venders that privilege, providing the cans be marked. This marking doubtless was in order that the public should not be defrauded; but it does not prevent fraud, as the purchaser rarely sees the label. Our wholesale dealers avoid prosecution by delivering all their milk to the smaller venders in marked cans, who in turn supply their trade with *pure milk*, until found by the inspector to be otherwise.

What is the probable cost of these adulterations to a great city? New Orleans found that \$230,000 was annually paid for water and loss in skimming; Boston found that it was similarly defrauded of \$500,000 a year. The citizens of New York were led by startling disclosures to investigate, and they discovered that 80,000 quarts were supposed to be daily added to their milk supply. In our own city, if the adulterations be

but ten per cent.—and in many instances it has been much greater, reaching as high as thirty-three per cent.—we must pay over \$60,000 annually for what we do not receive. In other words, our citizens, rich and poor (and particularly the latter, for it is into their supply that the greatest spoliation falls), are defrauded out of this great sum of money ; and what have they to show in return ?

If your committee had nothing else to offer as the result of their years' labor but this inspection, we should feel satisfied with our efforts, and feel they had not been in vain.

CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As it is in the control of this class of diseases that sanitary science has won its greatest triumphs, your committee early felt that in some way they should have greater control and a more careful supervision over the more virulent of these diseases. To this end, your honorable body was asked to pass the ordinance relating to this class of diseases, which was promptly done. The Board have defined the diseases to be reported as small-pox, scarlet fever and diphtheria. Physicians are gratuitously furnished with postal cards to report these cases to the Board. Our inspector makes a register of each case in a book kept for that purpose. In the enforcement of this ordinance we hope to prevent the exposure of the infected with the non infected, to close up all channels through which contagion may be conveyed, to aid the physician, if need be, and tender the service of a skilled person to disinfect, on

behalf of the city, when necessary. The communication of the physician with the Board is considered confidential; they must see that the efficiency of the system depends largely on their *willing* or *enforced* co-operation. Thus far the Board have had their uniform assistance in carrying out the ordinance.

The advantages of this system must be apparent to every intelligent citizen, and we expect them to assist their physicians and the Board in doing all in their power to lessen these fearful scourges.

This ordinance enables the Board to keep what will be a most valuable record or statistical reference, by which the department will know each day the number and locality of each case of infectious disease. We can know the severity or mildness of an epidemic. By this means, no sensational or exaggerated reports can be spread, to needlessly alarm our people or interfere with their pursuits, but what may be corrected by the facts obtainable at this office. We shall reduce the spread of contagion by protecting our schools—the very hot-beds of such troubles. Although but recently enforced, it has proved of value in many ways to our citizens. They know and feel that by reason of it their families are more secure against disease that costs money, anxiety and sorrow.

SMALL-POX.

While this dreadful disease has prevailed to no small extent throughout the country, and has been almost epidemic within a few miles, we have been

singularly exempt, having had in all but 120 cases in the city, of which number 49 were sent to the small-pox hospital. No cases have been reported since June last. Great credit is due to our District and Dispensary Physicians and the City Apothecary, for their prompt and active efforts to vaccinate and re-vaccinate those who presented themselves for the benefits of the free vaccination offered by the city. This public and private vaccination has secured the largest protection to the greatest number, so that to-day we have but few people in our city who have so much of the crank in their make-up as to deny its use and protective value.

HOSPITAL FOR CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Your committee have rid the management of this hospital of all its objectionable features. It is now always ready for the reception of cases; and although we have had no inmates since July last, we have had constantly employed one competent nurse and assistant. These buildings, though somewhat smaller and not as well appointed as desirable, have been made to answer our wants under the admirable executive and professional care of Dr. Hollister. We regret that it has not more pleasant surroundings. It should be a real *Hotel Dieu* to the poor unfortunate - attractive, instead of being repulsive to those in need of the charity which it offers; everything should be done to rob it of its general name of "Pest House," as it is so suggestive, and carries with it many imaginary as well as real horrors.

NIGHT SOIL.

When the present Board of Health came into power, the system of removing and depositing night soil was one of the most intolerable nuisances that existed among us. The city providing no public place for its reception, the scavengers deposited this dangerous material at such places as best suited their convenience, or on the grounds of persons just outside the city limits, who, for a small consideration, would secure it for agricultural or other purposes, without thought for the welfare or comfort of thousands of this community. A nuisance of so great a magnitude, liable to be so detrimental to health one that so directly concerns and threatens every citizen should be under greater control, as we probably have at least 15,000 privies, and nearly half as many cesspools; the removal of their contents and the depositing of so large a quantity of decomposing matter should be done in a manner to secure the least possible exposure to the atmosphere. The city should provide proper dumping grounds, to be used under the direction of the Board; no scavenger should receive a license unless he agrees to use the same, and their entire direction should be left to the management of the Board of Health. When this is done, and a more careful supervision in this direction is secured, a serious evil will be removed, and the health of our city improved.

I may add that your committee made such provision, after canvassing many places at great effort, and supposed that the arrangement would be completed, but failed for want of sufficient legislation.

SEWERS.

I will only briefly refer to the intolerable sewerage nuisance that exists in the Tenth and Fourteenth Wards. It has been referred to this and a special committee, and you are already familiar with every detail. It was the hope of this committee that the excavation could have been finished before early Spring, owing to the bad results that will surely follow if so much earth and bog are turned either in Spring or Summer. We believe that an open ditch sewer will be less desirable than a closed one; yet the unfavorable conditions will be greatly lessened by its length, and the flow of tide water will largely contribute to render it effectual, to say nothing of the plan proposed for flushing, which, if properly done, will make as perfect a sewer as the open ditch can be made, and, we think, will cure the evil. It is our expectation that when the measures now under consideration are fully matured and determined upon, that it will be for the abatement of the difficulties complained of in each district.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Your committee would call especial attention to the great and efficient professional labor done by our eight district physicians, who have had upwards of 3,626 cases of various diseases, including obstetrical cases, to treat during the year. No one but heaven can know the amount of suffering relieved and desolate homes made bright by their kindly visits. We feel that these gentlemen are poorly paid, and that their service of

about 12,000 calls should receive greater pecuniary consideration at your hands.

We point with pride to our Dispensary, and to the additional work done by the physicians therein, which is included in the appended report of our efficient apothecary, J. F. Cramer, to whose ceaseless and earnest efforts to expand the out-door service while lessening the expense of his department, your committee are indebted.

We have only to add, in ending our report, that the public service might be rendered more efficient by a Commission or continuous Board, clothed with greater power, which would not increase the cost, but render the efforts of the department more sure and successful.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of Board of Health,

F. B. MANDEVILLE, M.D.,

Health Physician.

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK, NEWARK, Jan. 2, 1883.

REPORT OF INTERMENTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1882.

AGES.

One year and under.....	1,027
Between 1 and 2 years.....	357
“ 2 “ 5 “	456
“ 5 “ 10 “	223
“ 10 “ 20 “	158
“ 20 “ 30 “	323
“ 30 “ 40 “	285
“ 40 “ 50 “	265
“ 50 “ 60 “	237
“ 60 “ 70 “	267
“ 70 “ 80 “	204
“ 80 “ over.....	119
Unknown.....	

DISEASES.

Abscess.....	4
“ Liver.....	
“ Lumbar.....	
“ Lungs.....	2
“ Pelvic.....	
Abortion.....	1
Aphthæ.....	2
Addison's Disease.....	
Adynamia....	25
Albuminaria.....	9
Anæmia.....	10
Aneurism Aorta.....	2
Angina Pectoris.....	6
Apoplexy.....	77

Atelectasis Pulmon.....	8
Atrophy.....	4
Asphyxia.....	11
Asthenia.....	35
Asthma.....	4
Ascites.....	1
Bronchitis.....	135
" Capillary.....	62
Bright's Disease, Kidneys.....	60
Burns.....	6
Calculus of Bladder.....	
Cancer.....	24
" Breast.....	3
" Colon.....	
" Kidneys.....	
" Œsophagus.....	
" Liver.....	4
" Rectum.....	2
" Stomach.....	15
" Uterus.....	6
Casualties.....	57
Coma.....	1
Cachexia.....	1
Cholera Infantum.....	127
" Morbus.....	12
Collapse.....	5
Cirrhosis Liver.....	5
Compression, Brain.....	2
Concussion, Brain.....	3
Congestion, Brain.....	45
" Liver.....	1
" Lungs.....	25
Congestive Chill.....	6
Consumption, Bowels.....	
Convulsions.....	227

Convulsions Puerperal.....	2
Croup.....	68
" Membraneous.....	26
Cyanosis.....	5
Delirium Tremens.....	7
Dentition.....	2
Diabetes Mellitus.....	5
Diarrhœa.....	39
Diphtheria.....	126
Disease, Brain.....	32
" Liver.....	12
Dropsy, General.....	30
" Brain.....	8
" Chest.....	1
" Heart.....	
" Ovarian.....	1
Dysentery.....	16
Embolism.....	3
Emphysema, Lungs.....	2
Endocarditis.....	4
Entero, Colitis.....	9
Enteritis.....	25
Epilepsy.....	5
Erysipelas.....	16
Fever, Malarial.....	5
" Catarrhal.....	1
" Congestive.....	4
" Gastric.....	1
" Hectic.....	
" Intermittent.....	6
" Nervous.....	1
" Enteric.....	3
" Remittent.....	7
" Puerperal.....	8

Fever, Scarlet.....	199
“ Typho-Malarial.....	27
“ Typhoid.....	54
“ Typhus.....	4
“ Yellow.....	
Fistula in Ano.....	
Fracture, Skull.....	8
Gangrene.....	5
“ Senile.....	1
Gastro-Enteritis.....	62
General Debility.....	73
Gout.....	
Heart Disease.....	58
“ Hypertrophy.....	14
“ Organic.....	1
“ Valvular.....	54
“ Enlargement.....	
“ Fatty Degeneration.....	4
Hemiplegia.....	4
Hemorrhage.....	27
“ Kidneys.....	
“ Lungs.....	7
“ Post Partum.....	1
“ Umbilical.....	1
“ Uterine.....	
Hernia, Inguinal.....	2
Hydrocephalus.....	15
Hydrophobia.....	
Hysteria.....	
Inanition.....	22
Infanticide.....	
Inflammation, Bladder.....	7
“ Bowels.....	9
“ Brain.....	5

Inflammation, Kidneys.....	16
" Larynx.....	10
" Liver.....	19
" Pericardium.....	13
" Peritoneum.....	1
" Pleuro.....	7
" Ovary.....	
" Stomach.....	2
" Spinal Chord.....	
Insanity.....	4
Intersusception, Bowels...	2
Intestinal Catarrh.....	1
Jaundice.....	6
Leucocythemia...	
Locomotor Ataxia.....	
Malformation.....	1
Marasmus.....	96
Measles...	32
Meningitis, Acute.....	84
" Chronic.....	18
" Tubercular.....	27
" Cerebro Spinal.....	36
Metritis.....	
Metro Peritonitis.....	
Murder.....	
Necrosis.....	2
Neuralgia.....	1
Occlusion of Rectum.....	1
" Lungs.....	31
Old Age.....	34
Ovarian Tumor.....	
Paralysis, General...	65
" Bladder.....	
Parotitis.....	

Paraplegia.....	
Pelvic Cellutis.....	
Peritonitis.....	37
Phlebitis.....	1
Phlegmasia Dolens.....	
Phthisis, Pulmonalis.....	477
" Acute.....	25
" Chronic.....	5
Placenta Prævia.....	2
Pneumonia.....	254
" Bronco.....	17
" Pleuro.....	18
" Typhoid.....	10
Poisoning.....	1
Pregnancy.....	
Premature Birth.....	40
Pyæmia.....	14
Rheumatism.....	11
Scrofula.....	2
Septicæmia.....	7
Shock.....	2
Skin Diseases.....	
Small Pox.....	14
Softening Brain.....	13
" Stomach.....	
" Spinal Chord ..	
Spinal Diseases.....	5
Still Born.....	178
Stricture Œsophagus.....	
" Intestines.....	
Suicide.....	15
Sunstroke.....	1
Syphilis.....	2
Tabes Mesenterica.....	1

Tænia.....	
Teething.....	1
Tetanus.....	17
" Infantum.....	
Tumor.....	12
Trichinosis.....	
Ulcers.....	6
" Stomach.....	
Unknown, Adult.....	
" Infant.....	
Uræmia.....	15
Whooping Cough.....	31
Wounds.....	

PLACES OF NATIVITY.

United States.....	2,910
Ireland.....	387
England.....	73
Scotland.....	23
Italy.....	27
France.....	10
Sweden.....	2
Holland.....	
Germany.....	461
Prussia.....	
Africa.....	1
West Indies.....	
Switzerland... ..	6
Denmark.....	3
Norway.... ..	1
Canada.....	3
Russia.....	3
Spain.....	1

Austria.....	6
Unknown.....	4

TOTALS.

Men.....	898
Boys.....	1,176
Women.....	776
Girls.....	1,071
Total.....	3,921

Of which number were colored, 136.

Births.....	4,163
Marriages.....	1,477

S. H. PEMBERTON,

City Clerk.





